

Claims

1. For deterring an attack by an animal upon a user;  
a portable device comprising a figure that increases rapidly in size upon activation by the user, thereby scaring the animal and deterring the attack upon the user.
2. The device of claim 1 comprising an inflatable figure.
3. The device of claim 2 wherein the inflatable figure comprises a molded and shaped inflatable shell.
4. The device of claim 3 wherein the molded and shaped inflatable shell comprises a material selected from the group consisting of: a plastic material, a rubber material and a polymer material.
5. The device of claim 3 wherein the figure is inflated by a gas released from a pressurized gas container.
6. The device of claim 3 wherein the device is fully inflated within 5 seconds.
7. The device of claim 2 wherein the device is detachably associated with an item selected from the group consisting of: a knapsack, an item of luggage, an item of clothing, and a walking-stick.
8. The device of claim 2 wherein activation is accompanied by the production of a loud noise.
9. The device of claim 8 wherein the noise is selected from the group consisting of: an explosion, a horn, a whistle, and a shout.

10. The device of claim 2 wherein activation is accompanied by the production of a smell.
11. The device of claim 10 wherein the smell is a smell similar to that of an animal.
12. The device of claim 2 wherein activation is accompanied by the production of smoke.
13. The device of claim 12 wherein the smoke is produced by a pyrotechnic device.
14. The device of claim 2 wherein activation is accompanied by the launching of one or more projectiles.
15. The device of claim 2 wherein the figure, when inflated is shaped is the form of a type of animal selected from the group consisting of: ursine, feline, bovine, ovine, serpentine, lepine, and ungulate.